

many titles of a 5-year farm bill in size and scope, I might add.

Now, I wish I could say I was surprised, but given how Republicans have been so brazenly ignored throughout the first reconciliation and this newest sham reconciliation, this dereliction of process has, sadly, become par for the course.

As for the \$28 billion of missing mystery funds, members of our committee remain in the dark. Initial summaries leaked to the press by the stakeholder groups and Senate Democrats told one story. A draft leaked this week told a very different one, including what appears to be \$34 billion beyond the Democrats' own instruction.

This past weekend, the Budget Committee spent time moving the total package forward, and now it looks as though the Democratic chairman of the Rules Committee gets to decide the fate of the Agriculture package.

This is absurd.

This sham of a process is an insult to the 201 years of the House Agriculture Committee's bipartisanship. I refuse to stand idly by as this committee is driven into the ground by a partisan process that leaves rural America behind.

Enough is enough, Madam Speaker. Congress is a circus, and Democrats in leadership are the ringleaders.

This process is an absolute farce, and it has only further devolved into chaos as the press, lobbyists, and the Democratic leadership aides know more about the policy than committees of jurisdiction. Leaked documents and secretive briefings should not be the way Washington does business.

Process aside, this is simply a bad bill, and it does next to nothing for rural America. It is shameful that in the nearly \$100 billion of excess spending that claims to be for agriculture, there isn't one penny for the commodity safety net, crop insurance, broadband, or disaster assistance.

Madam Speaker, I could go on and on about how this bill fails rural America. Five minutes simply is not enough time. So, I will close with this: Democrats can either force this sham of a bill through and pat themselves on the back for explosive spending and lack of transparency, or we can start over and work together to put real solutions on the table for rural America.

SUPPORTING OVERLOOKED UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise today as I do every day in strong support of the millions of undocumented immigrants whose contributions to our communities cannot continue to be overlooked.

We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to provide sound immigration reform through reconciliation, and I urge my colleagues to join me in

prioritizing this timely and long-overdue effort. We must find the collective will in this House, in the Senate, and in the White House to finally resolve this pending issue.

The American Dream is for all of us, Madam Speaker. It is for TPS recipients. It is for Dreamers. It is for farmworkers and essential workers who put their lives on the line during the pandemic.

How can we build back better without providing real reform for our undocumented immigrants? Or are we to abandon a nation of immigrants? That is the question.

Let me be very clear, Madam Speaker: Including immigration reform in budget reconciliation is not without any precedent. While the Senate Parliamentarian's decisions have not gone our way, we must forge ahead and continue to bring solutions to this community.

If not now, then when? How many times will we be able to tell vital members of our communities to wait in line to be treated fairly and equally in our country?

These are our neighbors, Madam Speaker. These are folks who helped us through the pandemic. These are the food delivery people who came to our homes while we shivered in fear during the pandemic. These are the over 400,000 farmworkers who picked the fruits and the vegetables that we put on our table during the pandemic. These are the home care workers that took care of our very frail seniors, that scrubbed themselves clean before they went to work, and when they went back home, had to do the same not to infect their children.

They are heroes. These are American heroes who kept us alive during the pandemic.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to pass much-needed legislation that reforms our broken immigration system. More than two-thirds of all undocumented immigrants work in front-line jobs and are essential workers in industries such as healthcare, home care, transportation, agriculture, food production, and construction, among others.

Including sound immigration reform would advance our economic recovery from the pandemic, reduce our national deficit, raise wages, add a cumulative \$1.5 trillion to the GDP over a decade, and create more than 400,000 new jobs.

President Biden and Vice President HARRIS have repeatedly demonstrated their commitment to pass immigration reform and have expressed strong support for including immigration reform in our budget reconciliation process. It is also broadly supported by the American people.

Congress has not passed substantial immigration reform in more than 35 years, Madam Speaker. Due to the Senate filibuster, a cynical remnant of Jim Crow, budget reconciliation provides the only glimmer of hope that will turn this into a reality.

It is an unfortunate truth that the other side of the aisle has rejected every proposal, Madam Speaker, every single proposal, and obstructed every single piece of immigration reform legislation that we have put forward. The filibuster has once again blocked our progress every step of the way.

For decades, we have failed to sign into law permanent legislative solutions to this problem. Budget reconciliation is the only tool we now have available.

Millions of immigrants in our country have lived their lives in fear and uncertainty for far too long. They are counting on us to get this done, and I am committed to making it happen. I will always stand behind asylum seekers, refugees, and families who come to this country to make a better life for themselves, just as I once did. That is the promise of America, Madam Speaker.

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HONORING DAVID J. RYDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AMODEI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of U.S. Mint Director David J. Ryder as he prepares to depart the Mint.

As a Boise State Broncos alum, Director Ryder has served with distinction in both the government and corporate worlds.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush nominated him to serve as the 34th Director of the U.S. Mint. He served until 1993. In 2017, he was nominated by President Trump for a second tenure as Mint director.

Madam Speaker, that was something the Bushes and the Trumps agreed upon.

Under Director Ryder's leadership, the Mint has introduced more new products than ever before. The Mint's bullion and numismatic programs reached their highest levels of revenue in over 10 years. The Mint's customer base grew to more than a half a million people—530,000, an increase of over 100,000 in 2 short years.

I was particularly impressed by Director Ryder's leadership when we worked together on the 2021 Morgan and Peace Commemorative Silver Dollars program, which produced 875,000 Morgan silver dollars and 200,000 Peace silver dollars, all under the 2021 date.

Carson City and New Orleans mintmarks were resurrected for the first time in years, even though those Mints had been closed by using them in a privy mark. Collectors went nuts, and rightfully so. The program netted over \$30 million for the U.S. Treasury and profits from this program when they all sold out in less than 20 minutes.

As he moves on to greener pastures, I wish Director Ryder success in all future endeavors he takes on. I thank Director Ryder for his all-American performance as the 39th Director of the United States Mint.

Madam Speaker, although it pains me to do this as a proud University of Nevada Wolf Pack alum, Director Ryder, thank you for your service again, and go Boise State Broncos.

PENTAGON'S POLICIES FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, let me start with a few facts.

One: The Leahy Law prohibits the United States from giving military assistance to foreign security forces that commit gross violations of human rights.

Two: The State Department determines whether there have been gross violations of human rights based in part on information from the Department of Defense.

Three: That process is only as good as the information coming in. Without that information, we don't cut off funding, and taxpayer dollars can go to foreign military units that commit rape, murder, torture, and other gross violations of human rights.

When our servicemembers have information on such abuses, they have an obligation to report it to their chain of command, but that is not technically true for Defense Department contractors. That is a problem. In fact, that is a big problem because contractors are a huge part of our military presence around the world. They make up more than half of DOD personnel in Iraq.

At the end of the war in Afghanistan, they outnumbered U.S. troops 17 to 1. And there have been repeated allegations of contractors who failed to report gross violations of human rights, from sexual abuse of young boys in Afghanistan to the torture of prisoners in Yemen.

In December 2019, Congress required the Pentagon to update the relevant policies and regulations. Section 888 of that year's Defense bill required specific guidance to Defense contractors on reporting gross violations of human rights.

Section 888 said to the Pentagon very simply: Put this duty to report human rights violations in your contracts. Include rules about reporting gross violations of human rights and put them right next to the rules for accounting, for purchasing equipment, and for subcontracting.

How has this been working? Not at all.

And why is that?

It is because the Department of Defense has apparently decided it is better to see no evil and hear no evil when Defense contractors witness gross violations of human rights.

The requirements in section 888 are currently 469 days overdue.

Madam Speaker, 204 days ago, my colleagues wrote to the Pentagon asking for an update; 97 days ago, the Pentagon sent a response that is best described with language that is prohibited on the House floor.

The Pentagon's response provided no updates on time, no procedures for reporting gross violations of human rights, and provided none of the other information required under the law that Congress passed. This is completely unacceptable, and what it suggests is that neither human rights nor Congressional oversight are priorities for the Department of Defense.

I urge Secretary Austin and General Milley to find out what is going on with section 888 of the fiscal year 2020 NDAA and fix whatever problems within their departments have led to this unacceptable delay.

This week, Secretary Austin and General Milley testified under oath that we are going to learn the lessons of the war in Afghanistan. The need for strong, clear procedures for contractors to report gross violations of human rights is one of those lessons. It should be an easy one to learn.

VOTING RIGHTS

Ms. PORTER: The right to vote is fundamental. Any threat to any American at the ballot box is a threat to every American's right to representative government.

It is the duty of the Federal Government to protect our Nation's democracy. We need to expand opportunities to vote, especially for young people, people of color, workers with atypical hours, and people with disabilities. We need to crack down on gerrymandering so that voters choose their leaders instead of leaders choosing their voters. We need to modernize voter registration, reform our broken campaign finance system, and prevent election subversion.

This is not a partisan issue. Every American, regardless of who they vote for or whether they even vote, deserves a government that works for them. And that cannot happen when the bedrock of our democracy, the right to vote, is undermined.

In the House, I proudly voted for H.R. 1, the For the People Act, and H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advance Act to safeguard our democracy. But until the President signs democracy protection into law, the work is not done. I will keep fighting for our democracy.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEBORAH HANSEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WALTZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Ms. Deborah Hansen for her service to the people of Florida's Sixth Congressional District over the last 3 years in my office.

Deborah was born in Salem, Oregon, to her parents, Bill and Fae Hansen. After graduating high school, Ms. Hansen left Salem to attend the University of Utah where she received her bachelor's degree in science and sociology with an emphasis in criminology, social work, and child welfare.

Upon graduating from the University of Utah, Ms. Hansen began her steadfast and inspiring career of public service. Deborah devoted over 30 years of work to the juvenile justice programs in Oregon and Utah. During this time, she also taught criminal justice courses as an adjunct professor for local community colleges.

While attaining all of her accomplishments, Deborah is most proud of raising her four beautiful children—Dustin, Dalton, Dain, and Danelle.

Prior to coming to my office, Ms. Hansen served with Representatives Cresent Hardy from Nevada and Representative Jason Lewis from Minnesota. In 2019, I was fortunate enough to have Deborah join my team as my office manager.

She quickly proved herself to be an invaluable asset, overseeing multiple meetings, the many requests we received, managing the daily operations of my Washington, D.C., office, and most importantly, keeping a freshman Member of Congress on track—no easy task, for sure.

Not only did she keep all of us in line, but Deborah also brought a great spirit to our office. She always brought in baked goods to share, had a new story to tell—whether it be a memory of her time on the West Coast, the latest adventures of her grandchildren, or about some mischief her new puppy, Tucker, had managed to get himself into—we were all ears.

Deborah is diligent; she is talented, hardworking, but above all, she is kind. And while I am sad to see her leave, I can say without a doubt, she has made both our office and our country a better place.

We wish Deborah a happy and hopefully, very relaxing retirement in the country filled with quality time with her four children, 13 grandchildren, and her favorite puppy, Tucker. However, I know this is not the end of Deborah's public service but the start of a new adventure in service to her community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues and the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Ms. Deborah Hansen for her lifelong career of servant leadership. From the bottom of our hearts, we wish Deborah the best as she embarks on this next chapter in her life.

2021 CONTRACT DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, during one of my floor speeches last week, I shared that President Biden's